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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/46/645/Add.2)]

46/212. Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of its resolution 44/214 of 22 December 1989 and all other relevant resolutions of the United Nations relating to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness and isolation from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks impose serious constraints on the overall socio-economic development efforts of the land-locked developing countries,

Recognizing also that fifteen of the twenty-one land-locked developing countries are also classified by the United Nations as least developed countries and that their geographical situation is an added constraint on their overall ability to cope with the challenges of development,

Recognizing further that most transit countries are themselves developing countries facing serious economic problems, including the lack of adequate infrastructure in the transport sector,

Recalling that measures to deal with the transit problems of land-locked developing countries require close cooperation and collaboration between those countries and their transit neighbours,

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Recalling the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, adopted on 10 December 1982, 1/

Recognizing the important role played by bilateral cooperative arrangements and regional and subregional integration in alleviating the transit problems of the land-locked developing countries and improving the transit-transport systems in land-locked and transit developing countries,

Noting the importance of strengthening the existing international support measures with a view to further addressing the problems of land-locked developing countries,

1. Reaffirms the right of access of land-locked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit States by all means of transport, in accordance with international law;

2. Reaffirms also that transit developing countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for land-locked developing countries should in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

3. Calls upon both the land-locked developing countries and their transit neighbours, within the spirit of South/South cooperation, including bilateral cooperation, to implement measures to strengthen further their cooperative and collaborative efforts in dealing with their transit problems;

4. Appeals to all States, international organizations and financial institutions to implement, as a matter of urgency and priority, the specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries envisaged in the previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/ in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly and contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and in the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; 3/

5. Invites the land-locked developing countries and their transit neighbours to intensify further their cooperative arrangements for the development of transit infrastructures, institutions and services to facilitate the movement of goods in transit with financial and technical assistance from donors and international agencies;

1/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

2/ See resolution 45/199, annex.

3/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), Part One.

6. Emphasizes that assistance for the improvement of transit-transport facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategy of the land-locked developing countries and that donor assistance should consequently take into account the requirement for long-term restructuring of the economies of the land-locked developing countries;

7. Urges donor countries and multilateral financial and development institutions to provide land-locked and transit developing countries with appropriate financial and technical assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and transit infrastructures and facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications;

8. Requests the United Nations Development Programme, as appropriate, further to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes and to expand its support in the transport and communication sectors to the land-locked and transit developing countries and its technical cooperation for development geared towards promoting national and collective self-reliance among them;

9. Takes note with appreciation of the contribution of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in formulating international measures to deal with the special problems of the land-locked developing countries, and urges the Conference, inter alia, to keep under constant review the evolution of transit-transport infrastructure facilities, institutions and services, monitor the implementation of agreed measures, collaborate in all relevant initiatives, including those of private sector and non-governmental organizations, and serve as a focal point for cross-regional issues of interest to land-locked developing countries;

10. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to carry out, within the overall level of resources for the biennium 1992-1993, specific studies in the following areas, inter alia, bearing in mind the need to address the concerns of transit developing countries, and to report on the results of the studies to the Trade and Development Board and to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session:

(a) Implications of high transit costs on the overall development of the land-locked developing countries;

(b) Identification of specific areas in the context of subregional and regional cooperation for the promotion and integration of transit infrastructure and services and harmonization of transit-transport policies and legislation and the assessment of regional trade possibilities for the expansion of the trade sector of land-locked developing countries;

(c) Improvement of current transit insurance regimes;

(d) Application of new information technology to improve transit services;

(e) Identification of specific training needs to improve the managerial capacities and the skills of personnel involved in transit operations to ensure effective utilization of transit-transport facilities;

(f) Development and expansion of all other alternatives and/or complements to ground transportation in order to improve the access of land-locked countries to foreign markets;

11. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and, where relevant, the executive heads of the subregional economic groupings, to convene in 1992-1993 subregional symposia/workshops of experts of land-locked and transit developing countries on the basis of the studies mentioned in paragraph 10 above and in other relevant studies;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to convene in 1993 a meeting of governmental experts from land-locked and transit developing countries and representatives of donor countries and financial and development institutions to review and propose appropriate concrete action to address the problems of land-locked developing countries, to be forwarded to the Trade and Development Board and to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session for appropriate action;

13. Calls on the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to take appropriate measures to enhance the capacity of the Conference, within existing resources for the biennium 1992-1993, in the area dealing with land-locked and island developing countries so as to ensure the effective implementation of the activities called for in the present resolution and of existing measures in support of land-locked developing countries;

14. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the progress being made to address the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries, 4/ and requests him to prepare another report, taking into account the provisions of the present resolution, for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

79th plenary meeting
20 December 1991

4/ See A/46/496 and Add.1.